(c) Some of the steps taken to enhance agri-exports include sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and conducting market surveys. Recently, the excise duty on Food Grade Hexane, which is a solvent used for extraction of oil, has been reduced from 32% to 16%.

Setting up of nine industrial estates

1744. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to set up nine industrial estates, with an investment of Rs.1500 Crores, in the Eastern States of the country, to promote industrial activity in the region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including State-wise locations identified for setting up the industrial estates and the pattern of funding evolved therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion had proposed a Scheme for Integrated Infrastructure Development of the Eastern and North Eastern Region. The Scheme would be applicable in the 8 States of North Eastern Region *viz.* Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim and the Eastern States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal. Under the Scheme, there would be two (2) industrial locations each in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal,Orissa and Assam. For the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim there would be one (1) industrial location each. Government would provide a 'one-time' assistance of Rs. 100 crore to each such industrial location for integrated infrastructure development. Planning Commission has accorded "in-principle" approval in order to enable preparation of a Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) on the said Scheme.

Assistance to coir producing States

1745. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: